



TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ADULT DAY CENTERS

IN SUPPORT OF

S.B. 366 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR ADULT DAY CARE

S.B. 774 AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE GRANT

S.B. 775 AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT-HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

Presented by

Katherine Donohue, Director of The Day Club Adult Day Center and President of CAADC

February 10, 2011

Good morning Senator Prague, Representative Serra, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Aging. My name is Katherine Donohue and I am the Director of The Day Club Adult Day Services in Middletown and President of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers, an organization of 46 adult day centers from across the state of Connecticut. I am speaking today strong support of **Senate Bill 366, An Act Concerning Funding for Adult Day Care.**

Adult Day Centers offer a solution for older adults and their families who wish to remain in their own homes where they would **prefer** to live, while saving the state millions of dollars by offering cost-effective long term care and respite service in the community. Adult day services keep older adults happier and healthier and can prevent nursing home placement for many years. Unfortunately and despite an increase in our adult day center rate in 2009 from \$63.55 to \$66.22 per day, many centers are struggling financially and the future of this segment of the continuum of care in this state remains in jeopardy.

Adult day centers are a very cost effective model of providing a full day of long term care services. We provide help with activities of daily living, including toileting, bathing, walking, transferring, and eating. A medical model day center offers on-site licensed nursing staff, access to rehabilitation services, bathing facilities, nutritional guidance, social and recreational activities, and many other services. **The average cost to care for a client in an adult day center is \$84 per day. The state currently reimburses \$66.22 per day under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, a loss of \$19.78 per day.** Within that home care rate we are required to provide transportation with the cost included in our daily rate. We calculate transportation to cost our agency **\$18.00** per day per client. Additionally, centers do not receive reimbursement for participant absenteeism due to inclement weather or unscheduled cancellation of planned service.

The Connecticut Long-Term Care Advisory Council's recommendations towards balancing the long-term care system in Connecticut looks to community services to meet the needs of older adults and their families and a strong network of adult day centers can play a vital role in that effort. But Adult Day Centers will not survive under the current rate system and it may not overcome any further freezes of the state's home and community-based funding sources. Some centers will choose to close rather than to cut corners on services or staff. In 2009 alone, three exceptional centers closed their doors in Simsbury, Tolland and Shelton placing greater demands

on existing centers to serve these participants and their caregivers. We estimate that the loss of the Adult Day Centers in the state will result in at least 1,460 clients without service and over 300 jobs lost. There will also be an impact on family caregivers and their employment status. Faced with the closing of centers, families who need to work will either have to place older family members in a long term care setting, reduce their work hours, or leave their jobs altogether to care for their loved one at home. With limited resources and declining affordable options for home care, many families will be placed in difficult situations.

We ask your support to increase the rate to \$75.00 as raised in Bill No. 366 to ensure that this cost effective, community based option remains a viable choice for the elderly in our state. We understand the challenge the Connecticut legislature faces in 2011, to fairly fund so many vital services and programs, but we firmly believe adult day centers save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars by providing a vital link within the continuum of care and meeting the growing needs of Connecticut's elderly and their caregivers.

It is for this reason that we also offer our support of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Grant Program and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders. The Alzheimer's Respite and Connecticut Home Care Programs are the funding lifelines of our most needy clients and caregivers. The fact remains that freezes and cost-sharing under these essential funding programs have pushed many clients and their caregivers to eliminate services, created waiting lists and forced many to apply for Medicaid eligibility to receive these necessary respite care services. We have witnessed many of our clients and their caregivers withdraw from adult day services when their grant funding runs out only to hasten their move to more expensive nursing home care. We encourage you to avoid these unintended outcomes as we move forward and to support these important funding sources for community based services.

Thank you and would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Donohue, President
CAADC
1340 Worthington Ridge
Berlin, CT 06037
Telephone: (860) 828-8653
Fax: (860) 828-8694
Email: adc@canpfa.org

Prepared by:
Maureen Dolin, Director, Hebrew Home Adult Day Center at Immanuel House
Michael F. Hebert, MSW, MBA, Director of Grasmere by the Sea Adult Day Services
Elizabeth M. Kilroy, Director, Betty Larus Adult Day Health Center at Avery Heights

Increased State Funding Is Needed For Adult Day Services

Adult day centers provide a cost effective community-based long term care alternative for older adults wishing to remain in their homes but who need varying assistance during the day. With adult day services, clients are able to remain in their homes rather than moving to assisted living or a nursing home. At the same time, their quality of life is enhanced with a strong social component and a continued sense of independence. Unfortunately, while adult day centers provide a cost effective option to families, the current level of state reimbursement is making it increasingly difficult to remain a viable option.

Adult Day Centers Provide a Rich Array of Services

- Adult day centers provide help with activities of daily living, including toileting, bathing, walking, transferring, and eating.
- Medical model day centers have on-site licensed nursing staff, access to rehabilitation services, and bathing facilities in addition to the nutritional, social, recreational and other services provided by social model programs.
- Door to door transportation is provided to and from the center and these costs are bundled into the package of services provided to clients of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.
- The nursing, nutrition, rehabilitation and social services provided in adult day centers help frail elders remain at home – including many who would otherwise require nursing home placement.

Adult Day Health Care is a Cost-effective Alternative to Nursing Home Care

- A day of adult day center services currently costs the state 66.22 (medical model) and 57.93 (social model) making them a cost effective option compared to nursing home placement where the daily rate is closer to \$218.
- By keeping clients in their homes, the net savings to the State attributable to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders add up to many millions each year.

State Payment Does Not Cover the Cost of Adult Day Health Services

- Adult day centers face financial losses with each Home Care Program client they serve.
- There are currently 46 certified adult day centers in operation, but 18 have closed in the last eight years due in large part to the low state reimbursement rate.
- The average cost to care for a client in an adult day center is approximately \$ 84.00 per day. The state currently reimburses a medical model center \$66.22 a loss of \$17.78 per day.
- The costs of providing day services continues to rise as some clients require the assistance of two staff members for toileting and bathing; many suffer from confusion and require constant supervision.

Costs are rising due to several factors:

- **Staffing** - Adult day centers are not immune from the nursing shortage, and they typically cannot compete with the benefits and incentives larger facilities offer.
- **Transportation** - The associated costs such as insurance and fuel are significant and have risen dramatically in recent years. The requirement remains that transportation be included within the daily rate.
- **Absenteeism** - The state will not pay for scheduled clients who do not attend for the day. The center incurs the cost in anticipation of the client's attendance, but they receive no reimbursement.

Please Support State Funding for Adult Day Services that more closely represents our actual costs.